NWRWAVES Frequently Asked Questions

1.   What does NWRWAVES stand for?

NOAA Weather Radio With All-Hazards VTEC Enhanced Software.

2.   Why was NWRWAVES developed?

NWRWAVES was developed to replace all the existing formatter capabilities in WWA and CAFE. NWRWAVES utilizes VTEC coding found in an increasing suite of NWS products to better identify, produce and manage outbound CRS Weather Messages.

3.   I've configured NWRWAVES to include the county/zone names in a product but they are not showing up in output.

You must have an Intro phrase configured in order to county/zone names in the text. Pairing an intro phrase with the county list yields a well worded and informative combination.

An Intro phrase is also required to get Preamble text in the product.

4.   *What do I if I have question or a problem with the NWRWAVES software?*

Consult the *"How to report problems or questions about NWRWAVES"* page on the NWRWAVES web page.

5.   How do I configure the ZFP to only play the first five periods of the forecast?

NWRWAVES supports basic formatting of the ZFP product but this product is handled by the GFE produced SAF (Service Area Forecast). The SAF is an extremely configurable product both temporally and spatially.

6.   *I'd like to include the county/zone names in a product but I do not wish to include an Intro phrase in the product*.

Your best bet is to configure an Intro phrase (such as **QZX**) and then edit your **WordFile.txt** file to include the phrase:

QZX, ||

this would allow you to list the county/zone names without having an Intro phrase in the product.

7.   I have a user who has a hard time reading the file names in the NWRWAVES Browser, how can I make the background lighter?

If a user has problems viewing files in the NWRWAVES Browser, try the following:

copy /awips/adapt/NWRWAVES/browser/browser.cfg to their home directory and then edit the file to change the line:

set LIST_BACKGROUND #0077bb

to

set LIST_BACKGROUND lightblue   (or some other suitable color)

this will override the factory colors for that user.

8. I just issued a Wind Advisory and NWRWAVES created products using WIY for the PIL?

You need to check your product settings for your VTEC enabled products (particularly WSW, NPW and CWF products). Check the issuance and follow up PIL for all of the VTEC phenomena that occur with these products. You may wish to change these products from the VTEC PIL (WIY) to the AWIPS PIL (NPW), you may not but you do have the choice on a product by product basis.

9. What exactly does the alarm setting "NWR Only" mean?

The alarm setting "NWR Only" means an Alert Tone will not be generated on any transmitter. However, the software will check in the CRS database for the message's Message Type to determine whether or not the NWRSAME Tone is generated. The NWRSAME Tone parameter in the Message Type table is either selected or not for each transmitter. Therefore, depending on how the Message Type is set up in the CRS database, one transmitter may have a NWRSAME Tone generated, while another does not.

IMPORTANT NOTE: for all short fuse watches and warnings, including Tornado Watches/Warnings, Severe Thunderstorm Watches/Warnings, and Flash Flood Warnings, leave the default settings of "On" for the "Alert Tones" option, and for the VTEC options of "EXA" and "EXB"

IMPORTANT NOTE: take special care when using the "NWR Only" option for alert tones. Unless you've specifically assigned the 1050 Hz tone *by transmitter* under the 'Transmitter Specific' blue button on the Message Type GUI, the "NWR Only" option will simply check for any SAME settings in your Message Type to use. If you haven't done anything special to assign the 1050 Hz tone by product, you can think of the "NWR Only" option as a 'SAME-only (if configured)" option.

10. I'm getting error messages at CRS stating " Message from AFOS contains errors: Invalid message: replace id in MRD list."

These messages are occurring because an MRD number that NWRWAVES is referencing do not exist in the CRS database. This could be caused by someone manually removing a product from the cycle. They are safe to ignore.

11. I have a county that is served by two transmitters. How can I avoid duplicate alarm/NWRSAME tones?

NWRWAVES will produce transmitter-specific weather messages using the three-character transmitter mnemonic you assign in configuration. When you add the new transmitter specific products to your CRS database, only check the matching he SAME option for that matching transmitter mnemonic. That way, each transmitter gets only one set of alarm tones for a warning for an overlapped county.

12. I can't find any Offshore Zones in the NWRWAVES Setup GUI. Where are they?

The Offshore Zones can be found be entering the identifier **OPC** in the Selected WFO/Center Site ID box.

13. Are there any configuration changes between NWRWAVES v2.3 and NWRWAVES 2.4?

The only configuration difference between v2.3b and v2.4 is that in v2.4, a flag setting was added on the 'Marine' tab of the Product Configuration (**Section 3 – Tab 4**) to turn on/off VTEC usage in marine products.

14. Does NWRWAVES backup configuration changes?

When you make adjustments to NWRWAVES configuration data, the current version of your configuration files are saved off into the /awips/adapt/NWRWAVES/BACKUP directory. Details on these file names are in the different 'Tab' sections below. When they are saved off into the /BACKUP directory, the naming scheme used is the file name, followed by a date/time stamp. This will allow you to quickly restore from any mistakes made in configuring different components of NWRWAVES.

15. What is the difference between Routine and Non-Routine Broadcast Service Areas (BSA)?

Each transmitter has a separate list for Routine Counties/Zones and Non-Routine Counties/Zones. In the context of NWRWAVES, this is not necessarily a one-to-one relationship with the routine service area of your CRS transmitters. You can use the separate lists in two distinct fashions:

(A). One method is to establish your lists by using any county/zone for which you routinely broadcast information (tone alerts for warnings, etc.) in your Routine BSA. Users would then include county/zone entries that reside outside a normal reception area in the Non-Routine BSA. This is useful as you can include counties in your Non-Routine BSA for which you do unique tone-alert settings by product, counties that are out of your transmitter's coverage area but for which you carry WRSAME bursts for an area radio station, or to set a county from a distant office to carry a product such as an HLS (where you are an inland office but wish to broadcast information about a land falling tropical system from a nearby coast).

Method (A) mimics how your broadcast service area actually functions within the scope of over-the-air broadcasting.

(B). The second method is to assign only a "core county/core zone" to your Routine BSA, then assign all other county/zone entries into your Non-Routine BSA. This setup allows you to mimic legacy CAFÉ behavior in multi-segment, non-VTEC coded products such as the ZFP, NOW, SPS, and HWO. Later in the setup process, when you configure NWRWAVES products by AWIPS product identifier and/or VTEC code, you would set such products as the ZFP/NOW et. al. to not process for the Non-Routine BSA, and set all other products like watches/warnings, etc., to process for both lists. This enables you to use a core-county approach which results in just one segment slated for airplay on CRS.

Method (B) mimics legacy "core county" functionality of the ZFP and NOWX CAFÉ formatters.

16. What NWRWAVES Products handle short fused convective watches and warnings?

In the VTEC sense, a tornado watch is defined as a TO.A, a severe thunderstorm watch a SV.A, a tornado warning as a TO.W, and a severe thunderstorm warning as an SV.W. When you begin to configure products in NWRWAVES, you must think of these products as their VTEC hazard, and not their AWIPS product. For example, you would configure all options for tornado warnings under the "TO.W" option in the product list in NWRWAVES. If you wish to have the follow-up SVS statement's headlines read, you will need to turn the "Include Headlines" option to "On" under the "TO.W". Why? The AWIPS product does come out as an

SVS, but it has the "TO.W" VTEC code in it, which is what NWRWAVES will use to determine what to do with the inbound tornado warning follow-up.

There are legacy AWIPS product identifiers in the NWRWAVES product list, just in case a product is inadvertently sent without VTEC coding. You should also configure these just in case.

VTEC coded short fuse watch and warning products are as follows:
SV.A – Severe Thunderstorm Watch
TO.A – Tornado Watch
TO.W – Tornado Warning
SV.W – Severe Thunderstorm Warning

You will need text database triggers for all WOU statements (WOU0 through WOU9), your local office WCN, and any other surrounding office's WCN's that apply to areas covered by your transmitters.

17. What NWRWAVES products are used for Marine Responisbilities?

Marine products such as the Near Shore Forecast (NSF) and Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF) (and soon by directive to include the Offshore Forecast (OFF) and Great Lakes Forecast (GLF)) have numerous VTEC possibilities. You have the option in NWRWAVES to enable/disable VTEC use for these products (settings are established in Section 3 – Tab 4 below), as VTEC can lead to some complicated processing of segments and messages on the air.

If you decide to have NWRWAVES track VTEC, you will need to configure NWRWAVES for each of these VTEC event and significance codes (each is considered a unique product). You will be able to tone alert (by VTEC phenomenon). You will not be able to set a default under the NWRWAVES product types of NSH and CWF (as appropriate) and see the products process. These VTEC event codes are as follows:

CF.A – Coastal Flood Watch
CF.S – Coastal Flood Statement
CF.W – Coastal Flood Warning
CF.Y – Coastal Flood Advisory
GL.W – Gale Warning
HF.W – Hurricane Force Wind Warning
LO.Y – Low Water Advisory
LS.A – Lakeshore Flood Watch
LS.W – Lakeshore Flood Warning
LS.S – Lakeshore Flood Statement
LS.Y – Lakeshore Flood Advisory
MA.F – Routine Marine Forecast
MA.S – Special Marine Statement
MA.W – Special Marine Warning
RB.Y – Small Craft Advisory for Rough Bar
SC.Y – Small Craft Advisory
SE.Y – Hazardous Seas Advisory
SI.Y – Small Craft Advisory for Wind
SR.W – Storm Warning
SU.W – High Surf Warning
SU.Y – High Surf Advisory
SW.Y – Small Craft Advisory for Hazardous Seas
TS.A – Tsunami Watch
TS.W – Tsunami Warning

If you disable VTEC tracking for these marine products, NWRWAVES will treat them as non-VTEC products, and the settings under the NWRWAVES product types of "NSH" and "CWF" (also "OFF" and "GLF") will be used universally regardless of the VTEC hazards contained in each segment. You will not be able to assign tone alerts by VTEC phenomenon. You would only need to configure these four NWRWAVES product entries (as applicable to your office):

CWF – Coastal Waters Forecast
NSH – Near Shore Forecast
OFF – Offshore Waters Forecast
GLF – Great Lakes Forecast

You will need text database triggers for all TCVAT(x) statements (TCVAT1 through TCVAT5) to properly prepare and disseminate tropical watches and warnings.

18. I'm getting double headlines showing up in products created in GHG, why?

You may wish to disable headlines for products produced from GHG, as they duplicate the headline in the attribution statement. This will give you two headlines on the air.

19. Does NWRWAVES produce an Overview product like CAFE?

In a VTEC segmented product, the overview would be included with each unique VTEC-coded segment as a CRS Weather Message. This could cause the Overview to repeat multiple times. NWRWAVES does not create a unique CRS product for the 'Overview' section.

20. How do I add additional products to the NWRWAVES Browser's Product Filter List?

To add (or remove) product from the NWRWAVES Browser's product filter sub menu, edit the file:

/awips/adapt/NWRWAVES/browser/pils.list

This file will be preserved through future NWRWAVES upgrades.

21. Does the install of NWRWAVES replace the existing NWRBrowser?

Yes, installing NWRWAVES will replace the legacy NWRBrowser with the new NWRWAVES Browser for all users. The NWRWAVES Browser maintains all the functionality of the legacy NWRBrowser plus adds numerous bug fixes and enhancements.

22. What do I do if I find an error in the UGClookup.table?

Send any corrections regarding the UGClookup.table to Evan.Bookbinder@noaa.gov

23. How does NWRWAVES handle duplicate products?

NWRWAVES does a duplicate product check on any VTEC product it processes. NWRWAVES tracks products by utilizing their VTEC line. If a duplicate product is detected and the VTEC action code is NEW, it will not be processed. Anytime a duplicate product is tossed out, it will be logged in the daily NWRWAVES log files. There is no special filtering for duplicate non-VTEC products; however, these are not the types of products that would cause double-toning problems.

24. How does NWRWAVES handle Test Messages?

NWRWAVES will process the warning and either detect the Test VTEC coding and/or legacy TEST wording within the product. It will then trigger an fxa red banner alert message stating "Test Wording Detected..." and sent all of its output to the Pending directory. The operator that this point could opt to send the messages over to CRS or could delete the messages. If the test message were sent, the messages would go over to CRS with all of the proper EAS codes.

25. When the silence period is turned on. Does it disable both the alert tone and same codes during the silence period?

The silence period will disable both the 1050 Hz and SAME tones as CRS is sent a "N" for the alarm code.

26. If an alerted product is sent during the silence period, will it alert after the silence period has ended?

No, the current design will not allow for the automatic retransmission of the product with tones. You would need to call up the existing weather message on CRS, enable the tones, and save it.